

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: HOWLAND, Charles

Group Art Unit:

Serial No.

Examiner:

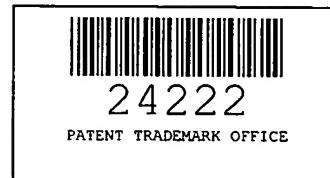
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To: Assistant Commissioner for Patents
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Fm:



CERTIFICATE OF MAILING 37 CFR 1.8: I certify that this correspondence is being deposited on the below date with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as FIRST CLASS MAIL addressed to: Assistant Commissioner of Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

Date: [] Vernon C. Maine, Reg. No. 37,389 or [] Scott J. Asmus, Reg. No. 42,269

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING 37 CFR 1.10: I certify that this correspondence is being deposited on the below date with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as EXPRESS MAIL POST OFFICE TO ADDRESSEE addressed to: Assistant Commissioner of Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

Date: 12/13/2001 [] Vernon C. Maine, Reg. No. 37,389 or [] Scott J. Asmus, Reg. No. 42,269

Dear Assistant Commissioner:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Applicants submit this statement and the attached 1 sheet(s) of form PTO-1449 and 4 specimens of prior art and other information in accordance to the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §§1.56, 1.97, and 1.98, and requests consideration hereof.

Compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97: This Information Disclosure Statement is filed within three (3) months of the filing date of a National Application or before the mailing date of a first office action on the merits. No fee or certification is required.

Information Cited: The Applicants hereby make of record in the above-identified application, the information listed on the attached form PTO-1449 (modified). The order of presentation of the references should not be construed as an indication of the importance of the reference. As all the references listed on attached Form PTO-1449 are in English, no commentary is required.

Remarks: A copy of each reference, together with a listing on Form PTO-1449(modified), is submitted herewith. Applicants respectfully request that:

1. The Examiner consider completely the cited information, along with any other information, in reaching a determination concerning the patentability of the present claims;

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2. The enclosed form PTO-1449 (modified) be signed by the Examiner to evidence that the cited information has been fully considered by the Patent and Trademark Office during the examination of this application; and

3. The citations for the information be printed on any patent which issues from this application.

By submitting this Information Disclosure Statement, the Applicants make no representation that a search has been performed, of the extent of any search performed, or that more relevant information does not exist.

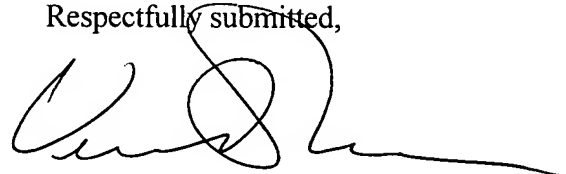
By submitting this Information Disclosure Statement, the Applicants make no representation that the information cited in the Statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).

By submitting this Information Disclosure Statement, the Applicants make no representation that the information cited in the Statement is, or is considered to be, in fact, prior art as defined in 37 C.F.R. §102.

Notwithstanding any statement by the Applicant, the Examiner is urged to form his own conclusion regarding the relevance of the cited information.

An early and favorable action is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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